

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6208

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AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, NI, IV

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST - NIGERIAN RELATIONS

REF: USUN 792

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MARCH 1 LETTER FROM IVORY COAST

PERM REP TO SYG, PURSUANT TO COMMUNICATION REPORTED REFTEL. TEXT HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO MISSIONS OF MEMBER STATES.

QUOTE

SIR

WITH REFERENCE TO MY LETTER NO. 139 DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1976,
CONCERNING THE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA,
I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST HAS ACCEPTED THE APOLOGIES OFFERED BY THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA FOLLOWING THE SEARCHING OF THE PREMISES OF THE EMBASSY OF THE IVORY COAST AT LAGOS ON 18 FEBRUARY 1976 AND CONSEQUENTLY CONSIDERS THE LAGOS INCIDENTS COMPLETELY CLOSED.

AT THE MEETING OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE PDCI-RDA PRESIDED OVER BY THE HEAD OF STATE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE:
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"THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECEIVED THE CHARGE

D'AFFAIRES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA IN THE IVORY COAST IN HIS OFFICE AT 9.30 THIS MONRNING 23 FEBRUARY 1976.

"THE CHARGE D' AFFAIRES DELIVERED A NOTE VERBALE ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT, ACCCOMPANIED BY VERBAL COMMENTS.

" IT TRANSPRIES FROM THIS NOTE AND THESE COMMENTS THAT THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA:

"(1) ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT HAD THE PREMISES OF THE EMBASSY OF THE IVORY COAST AT LAGOS SEARCHED ON 18 FEBRYARY 1976;

"(2) ACCORDINGLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE TRUTH OF THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST IT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST;

"(3) ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE REPORT THE COLONEL DINKA HAS TAKEN REFUGE IN THE EMBASSY OF THE IVORY COAST AT LAGOS WAS UNTRUE.

"THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT CONSEQUENTLY OFFERS ITS SINCERE APOLOTIES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST FOR THE INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED ON 18 FEBRUARY 1976, WHICH IT CONSIDERS REGRETTABLE, AND FERVENTLY HOPES THAT THEY WILL NOT AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE IVORY COAST, AFTER THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE PDCI-RDA DELIBERATED THE MATTER AT A MEETING HELD AT 10 A.M. ON 23 FEBRUARY 1976:

"HAVING REGARD TO THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, WHICH SHOULD ENCOURAGE AFRICAN STATES TO MAINTAIN CLOSER RELATIONS AND STRENGTHEN THEIR UNITY,

"HAVING REGARD TO THE TRADITIONAL POLICY OF WELCOMING OUTSIDE CONTACTS AND FORGETTING PAST INVJURIES, PRACTISED BY THE IVORY COAST, HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE APPOLOGIES OFFERED BY THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA AND TO CONSIDER THE INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED AT LAGOS COMPLETELY CLOSED.

"IT TRUSTS THAT THERE WILL BE NO RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS AND EXPRESSES THE SINCERE HOPE THAT THE PEOPLES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA WILL CONTINUE, AS IN THE PAST, TO LIVE IN TRUE BROTHERHOOD."

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD KINDLY ARRANGE FOR THE TEXT OF THIS LETTER TO BE ISSUED AS AN OFFICIAL UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENT.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) SIMEON AKE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
UNQUOTE
BENNETT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

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